

Amendments To The Claims

Claims 1-32 (Cancelled)

33. (New) A coupler connecting a fluid reservoir and a processing apparatus comprising:

a first longitudinally extending cylindrical ring defining an interior area;

a longitudinally extending fluid conduit positioned within the interior area and defining a fluid flow aperture;

a laterally extending wall between the first cylindrical ring and the fluid conduit, the laterally extending wall having a top surface directed towards the processing apparatus and defining at least one vent aperture creating fluid venting communication between the fluid reservoir and top surface.

34. (New) The coupler of claim 33 wherein the air vent apertures provide fluid venting communication between the reservoir and the processing apparatus.

35. (New) The coupler of claim 33 wherein the fluid conduit provides bi-directional fluid communication between the fluid container and the tissue processor.

36. (New) The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a second cylindrical ring longitudinally adjacent the first cylindrical ring.

37. (New) The coupler of claim 36, wherein the first and second cylindrical rings have substantially the same diameter.

38. (New) The coupler of claim 36, wherein the first cylindrical ring has a first diameter and the second cylindrical ring has a second diameter.

39. (New) The coupler of claim 33 wherein the fluid conduit extends through the wall and extends beyond the top surface of the wall within the interior space defined by the first cylindrical ring.

40. (New) The coupler of claim 36 wherein the fluid conduit extends through the wall and extends within an interior space defined by the second cylindrical ring.

41. (New) The coupler of claim 36 further comprising a retention cylindrical ring disposed within the second cylindrical ring.

42. (New) The coupler of claim 41 wherein the retention cylindrical ring is disposed around the fluid conduit forming a cylindrical gap between the fluid conduit and retention cylindrical ring.

43. (New) The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a plurality of vent apertures arranged concentrically within the wall.

44. (New) The coupler of claim 33, wherein the first cylindrical ring is configured to mate with a corresponding connector on the processing apparatus substantially forming a seal creating an enclosure between the interior of the first ring and the processing apparatus.

45. The coupler of claim 33 wherein the fluid conduit is configured to mate with a corresponding fluid conduit of the processing apparatus.

46. (New) The coupler of claim 33, including a concentric vent ring formed by an outer surface of the fluid conduit and an inner surface of the first concentric ring.

47. (New) The coupler of claim 46 wherein the concentric vent ring is in communication with the interior of the tissue processor.

48. (New) The coupler of claim 33, wherein the fluid conduit is disposed within the first and second cylindrical rings and passes through the wall between interior spaces defined by the rings.

49. (New) A method of coupling a fluid container with a processor system, comprising
providing a fluid container, the fluid container being attachable in fluid communication with a coupler, the coupler including a first longitudinally extending cylindrical ring defining an interior area, a longitudinally extending fluid conduit positioned within the interior area and defining a fluid flow aperture, a laterally extending wall between the first cylindrical ring and the fluid conduit, the laterally extending wall defining at least one vent aperture creating fluid venting communication between the fluid reservoir and top surface.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising:
positioning the fluid container and the coupler in fluid communication with the fluid container adjacent to the tissue processor; and
providing fluid communication between the fluid container and the tissue processor.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the fluid communication between the fluid container and the tissue processor is bi-directional.

52. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising:
removing a cap from the fluid container; and
attaching the coupler to the fluid container after removing the cap from the fluid container.

53. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent to the tissue processor includes the steps of:

determining the type of fluid within the container; and

positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent an appropriate locking assembly.

54. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising positioning an identifying marking on the fluid container, the identifying marking designating an appropriate locking assembly.

55. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent the appropriate locking assembly includes matching a color of the container with the color of the locking assembly.

56. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein providing fluid communication between the fluid container and the tissue processor includes displacing a portion of a locking assembly relative to the coupler.

57. (New) An apparatus providing fluid communication between a fluid container and a processor comprising:

a longitudinally extending cylindrical ring;

a longitudinally extending fluid conduit within the cylindrical ring, wherein the fluid conduit provides bi-directional fluid communication between the fluid container and the processor; and

a laterally extending barrier between the fluid conduit and first cylindrical ring, the barrier having first and second sides.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, further comprising at least one vent aperture provided in the barrier, the vent aperture creating fluid venting communication between the first side of the barrier and the second side of the barrier within an area defined by the first cylindrical ring.

59. (New) The device of claim 58, wherein the ventilation aperture provides ventilation between the fluid container and the tissue processor.